

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—as long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1906.

A Fine Entertainment.

The Mystic Midgets at the Berkeley School have scored a decided success. The matinee performance on Thursday afternoon amused and delighted a large audience, chiefly children, and the evening performance on Thursday and Friday have been given to crowded houses. In response to many requests it has been decided to repeat the play on Saturday evening. It is a charming production. The curtain rises on a stage full of dainty ladies in silver and gold dresses, arched maidens in pink and blue, and tiny butterfly girls in black and gold. The queen (Miss Rebecca Ord) with her two attendants (Miss Betts and Miss Stump) is charming in her part, which she plays with much self-possession. Her friend, Faye, Miss Alice Olsenoweth, though suffering from a severe cold and obliged to omit her solo portions, was graceful and pleasing.

The Gnomes and their King Ugllo, Albert Longdon, made a decided hit with their queer antics and weird dances around the witches' cauldron. The four little butterfly girls, Phoebe Hechel, Grace Beardsley, Ruth Banker and Stella Harrison, delight the audience, and the Archer Cadets, Gertrude Lauffer, Sadie Nicoll, Clara Ingold, Helen Brady, Myrtle Charles and Jessie Smith, form a very pretty picture in their pink dresses with their bows and arrows and later with their tambourines.

The audience is treated to some very funny bits of character-acting in the gathering of all nations under their Prince. James Ord, Wahsee-wahsee's toast, sung by William Schofield, brought down the house. The Rolfeans, Stephen Betts, added much to the amusement of the audience during the singing of this toast. One of the hits of the evening was the song, "Won't You Listen to the Big Brass Band?" by two small boys, Masters Alan Martin and Raymond Walker. These colored gentlemen were brought back several times by an enthusiastic audience.

The Amazon Guards, consisting of all the girls in the graduating class of the Berkeley School, gave a very effective drill.

Altogether it is a delightful evening's entertainment, and many people will be glad of the opportunity to see it again Saturday evening. Admission, twenty-five cents, at the door. No tickets have been issued for Saturday evening.

Spring Politics.

"The Memory of Spring Elections" would be a good title for a dinner given by Charles F. Koehler on Tuesday night to a group of men more or less active in local political affairs. The Legislature abolished the spring election, but so accustomed had politicians become to spring politics that the disposition to do something of a political nature in the spring was irremediable, so Mr. Koehler provided an antidote by affording an opportunity to talk politics and go through the form of naming candidates for Mayor, Town Councilmen, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Assemblyman and Freeholder. It would alarm some people to know of the numerous names offered and suggested as candidates for all the above-named official positions. For political reasons the names of those present at the dinner are suppressed, but if the suggested nominations for political places are carried out this town is on the verge of a political revolution that will eclipse the Colby campaign. It appears that the aspirants for political places are numerous, and no present office-holder is immune from active and serious competition for his job. Mr. Koehler mixed pleasure with politics for his guests on Tuesday night. He provided an excellent dinner and showed some fine pictures. Mr. Koehler has travelled considerably, and has taken pictures in various interesting parts of Europe, the South and other places. The pictures shown on Tuesday night were those of prominent points in the South and other places.

Banquet Committee.

President William Biggart of the Board of Trade has appointed the following committee to arrange for the Board's annual banquet: Peter Quinn, chairman; William P. Sutphen, John A. Lawrence, Harry L. Osborne, James H. Moore.

Municipal Light Plants.

At the Town Council meeting Monday night Town Attorney Charles H. Halfpenny made a statement to the Council relative to a meeting held in Orange for the discussion of assembly bill No. 301. This town and Montclair were represented at the meeting. The bill in question would enable two or more municipalities to jointly establish, maintain and operate electric light plants for public and private use.

The result of the conference was the adoption of a resolution to go to Trenton and ask for a hearing on the bill. The bill was prepared by City Council Lord of Orange, and is now in the hands of the House Committee on Municipal Corporations.

There was considerable discussion bearing on various provisions of the bill, but the talk narrowed down to the question of politics in the appointment of the board of commissioners provided for in the act. City Council William A. Lord, framer of the bill; Alderman Coleman E. Klesam, chairman of the legislative committee, which called the meeting, and Simeon H. Rollinson, town attorney of West Orange, favored the appointment of a bi-partisan commission, while the representatives of East Orange, Bloomfield and Montclair did not favor the introduction of anything saving of politics. Frederick W. Kelsey, Charles H. Ingersoll of South Orange, and others arrayed themselves on the anti-partisan side.

Councilman Lincoln E. Rowley of East Orange objected to the designation bi-partisan, non-partisan "or anything else" in the bill. He said he did not like the sound of the paragraph which referred to the political qualifications of members of the board. Mr. Lord admitted that if it were possible to get a non-partisan board all would be well, but he could not see how that could be brought about.

"It is not a good thing to inject politics into a municipal improvement of any kind," said Mr. Kelsey. "I should say appoint two, or better three, good men, without regard to whether they were Democrats or Republicans." Mr. Lord replied that there were many employees of the proposed municipal plant to be appointed, and as the majority of the commission was Republican or Democratic, so would the employees be Republicans or Democrats. "Why are we paying \$85 a year for our street lamps when we ought to get them for \$45?" said Mr. Kelsey. "Statistics show us that in the large run of cases there is fifty per cent. difference in cost between municipal and corporate lighting. I believe that if Orange had a plant conducted in the interests of the people we would have our street lights at \$40 a year."

"Mr. Lord in his bill," declared Mr. Rollinson, "is trying to make these offices worth having and working for. In West Orange we have one Republican alderman and nine Democrats. What chance would there be of the Council appointing a Democrat and a Republican? You will have to make the salaries appointments. Human nature will work so that the best men will happen to be of the strongest party. In the interest of West Orange, which is the only Democratic community represented in this proposed combine, and in order that she may have fair play, I favor a bi-partisan commission. I think Mr. Lord has drawn the bill correctly."

Town Counsel Goodell of Montclair said he would rather not see the bi-partisan provision in the bill. Alderman Edward Cheatham ventured the opinion that the thing was not going to work.

There was another discussion on the question of bonding the individual commissioners in \$10,000 each for the faithful performance of their duties. Mr. Lord said it was customary to bond police and fire commissioners, but perhaps the surety was too large and might be reduced. Mr. Goodell raised the question as to whether the commission would be bound, under the laws affecting the common carrier, to supply all consumers within a municipality. Mr. Rollinson saw difficulty in enforcing that where it would be necessary for the commission to install an expensive line to an outlying district for one small consumer. Mr. Goodell protested that every one ought to be treated alike. In the end it was decided that that matter might be covered in the contract executed by the different municipalities.

Section 13, which empowers the commission to sell to individuals and corporations was close to Socialistic condition, argued Mr. Rowley. He said a municipality might be willing to light its streets and buildings without supplying private consumers. Mr. Rowley raised the question of the proportion of expense of the plant to be borne by each municipality. He asked what scheme would be followed, and the percentage would be arrived at on a basis of population, tax rates or wires and lights. Mr. Lord thought, with Mr. Goodell, that the general contract would care for that. Charles H. Ingersoll of South Orange, who has made a study of municipal lighting, said it would be only necessary to apportion the cost of the central plant. Each municipality, he said, would have to take care of its wiring. Mr. Rowley then inquired what would happen if one of the municipalities desired to withdraw after the plant was built. It was pointed out to him that the commission was constituted a corporation and that none of the parties

could pull out without a general dissolution.

The representatives of the different municipalities, with the exception of East Orange, which was represented by Mr. Rowley, expressed the conviction that their communities would enter into the scheme and would give the project active support. Mr. Rowley would not commit himself, however. All he would say about it was that his city would be "intensely interested in the matter."

Is It Lawful to License?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN: Sir: The recent commendable action of the Buffalo authorities in closing nearly one hundred beer saloons as "immoral resorts" in one night will, undoubtedly, stand for some time to come as a local warning and wholesome evidence of the ever-present power to punish immorality and the open violation of "the fundamental law" with local permission, nevertheless, in the name of "license." "Immoral resorts" are natural results. It is not recalled that any other permitted traffic has ever been charged as above, with such extensive immorality.

Commenting on this assumed right of local authority, a well-known writer says: "The worst thing about the license system is that it is a direct violation of the fundamental law." The United States Supreme Court says: "There is no inherent right in a citizen to sell intoxicating liquors at retail. It is not the privilege of a citizen of a State nor of the United States." The same court also says: "No Legislature can bargain away the public health or the public morals. The people themselves cannot do this, much less their servants. Government is established for their preservation and cannot divest itself of its power to provide for them."

LOCAL CIVIC.**Brooks' Case in Court.**

The Brooks Colored Orphan Home case came up in the Essex County Court on Tuesday, when Joseph W. Callahan, counsel for Mrs. Brooks, appeared on behalf of his client and desired to waive any further action by the grand jury towards an indictment of Mary Jane Brooks and the Rev. James Garle.

In the latter part of January the State Board of Children's Guardians had its agent remove from the Brooks Home eight children and caused the institution to be closed, and Mrs. Brooks and Mr. Garle were arrested, on what Mr. Callahan characterized as "flimsy pretexts." The institution was maintained as a private one.

The colored defendants were taken before Recorder Cadmus and gave bonds, but being desirous of reopening the home, they wished a speedy trial. The court room was crowded when Mr. Callahan arose and said he was willing to dispense with further formalities and to have the case called. He maintained that he had served notice upon the prosecutor of his intention, but because his notice was not upon the forms provided by the prosecutor's office, it was disregarded.

"It will be a long time before this case is tried in the Court of Special Sessions," said Assistant Prosecutor Mott.

"Then some way will be found to have it done," retorted Mr. Callahan. "I have been told that my client, Mary Jane Brooks, is a fakir, and I say an unwarrantable prejudice exists against her."

"I never called her a fakir," answered Mr. Mott. "You have not complied with the rules of this office, and the prosecutor can say whether he is willing to allow you to waive this matter."

"Mr. Young called her a fakir," replied Mr. Callahan. "He told me in his office a week ago that he was going to send the case back to Bloomfield, after he had been given for my client's appearance before the grand jury. I said the court there was not competent to try it, because of the prejudice existing against Mrs. Brooks."

"I never called the woman a fakir," said the prosecutor, rising, "and furthermore, I have never applied that term to any one in my life."

"That is what you termed her to me," insisted Mr. Callahan.

"I am not accustomed to being addressed in such a manner," replied Mr. Young, indignantly. "The situation is that the defendants are awaiting action by the grand jury, and Mr. Callahan has not complied with my request that he bring his clients to my office, where the waiver could properly be made out."

"The prosecutor's office is not above the law," retorted Mr. Callahan, "and legal considerations are paramount to the wishes of the prosecutor. My clients have been unjustly treated, and to denounce one of them as a fakir is not right."

"I have never used such a term," insisted Mr. Young.

"Then it is a question of veracity, that's all," replied Mr. Callahan.

The court said he would consider the matter, and Mr. Callahan retired.

Socialist Lecture.

Edward Ellis Carr of Daville, Illinois, a national organizer and lecturer for the Socialist Party, will deliver a lecture in Central Hall on Wednesday evening, March 28. Mr. Carr is a former Methodist minister. He has been lecturing in the West to large audiences, and attracted much attention. The lecture is free and all are invited.

Musicians at Jarvis Memorial Hall.

To lovers of good music in Bloomfield and the neighboring towns an unusual opportunity will be offered at the musical to be given in the Jarvis Memorial Hall on Thursday evening, April 5. The artists are: Ward Stephens, pianist; Miss Ida Mae Pierpont, soprano; Miss Florence Fiske, contralto; Berriett J. Van Norden, tenor; J. Humbird Duffy, baritone. Mr. Stephens, a pianist of international reputation, needs no introduction to the Bloomfield people; his delightful work here with the Banner-Kronold string quartette two years ago is still fresh in the minds of all who heard him. Miss Pierpont is also well known in Essex county, having been for several years soprano soloist in the Clinton Avenue Reformed Church, Newark, leaving there to fill a similar position in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn. Miss Fiske is a contralto of unusual ability, and well known in New York musical circles. Mr. Van Norden is widely known among musical people, having been a member of the Olve concert company in a tour of the United States. Mr. Duffy commends himself to all who heard him last year with Madam Schuman-Hink in "Love's Lottery."

The artistic end of the musicale is under the direct management of Mr. Stephens; this is a sufficient guarantee of the high character of the programme. All other arrangements are in charge of the following committee from the Ladies' Society of Westminster Church: Mrs. H. E. Richards, Mrs. E. O. Bonband, Mrs. A. B. Van Liew, Mrs. F. A. Boyd, Mrs. Benjamin, Mrs. George W. Cook, Jr., Miss Newton, Miss Sutton.

Tickets may be obtained from any member of the committee or at George Woods' drug store.

The Umbrella and the Telephone. Somebody has said that "the telephone is like an umbrella; you may not use it all the time, but it's worth a good deal to know it is right there when you want it." To go a bit further, with the telephone of nowadays one hardly needs an umbrella at all. It is pleasanter and more comfortable in bad weather to stay at home and do business by telephone.

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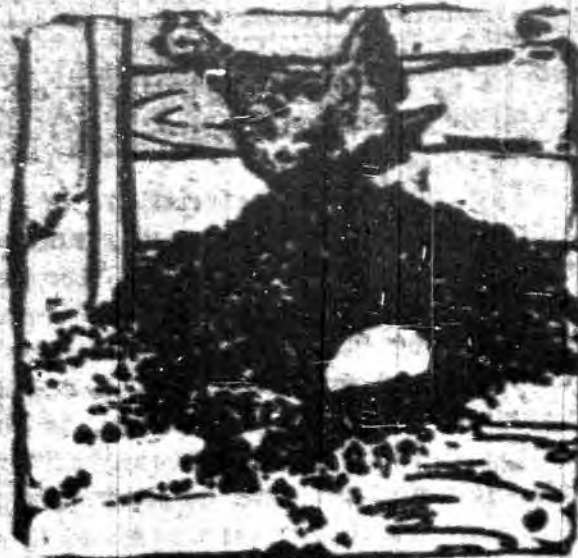
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